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cancel.

remote antennae package transmitting the wireless signal containing the channel select command over media.

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REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action March 29, 2002. Claims 1-50 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-25, 31, 38, and 43-47 have been cancelled, without prejudice to their resubmission. Claims 4, 17, 18, 26-28, 32-36, 39, and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 24, 31, 38, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,020 (Kuroiwa). Claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-23, 25, and 43-47<sup>1</sup> stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,317,884 (Eames). By this Amendment, in order to avoid unnecessarily delaying the issuance of a patent, these claims (claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-25, 31, 38, and 43-47) have been cancelled without prejudice to their resubmission.

Amended claims 4, 17, 18, 26-28, 32-36, 39, and 40 do not add any new matter. These claims originally were dependent claims depending from one or more of the claims cancelled by this Amendment. This Amendment simply transforms dependent claims 4, 17, 18, 26-28, 32-36, 39, and 40 into corresponding independent claims incorporating the elements of the cancelled claims from which they once depended. The amendments to claims 4, 17, 18, 26-28, 32-36, 39, and 40 are not intended in any way to limit the scope of the claimed invention or its equivalents.

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<sup>1</sup> Page 4 of the Office Action appears to contain a typographical error. Page 4 mistakenly includes claims 17 and 18 as having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and mistakenly fails to list claim 25 as having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The discussion on pages 5-8 of the Office Action, however, makes it clear that the Examiner did not reject claims 17 and 18, and did reject claim 25, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-5, 17, 18, 26-30, 32-37, 39-42 and 48-50 stand rejected solely under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,317,884 (Eames). The Examiner indicated, however, that for applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, the rejection could be overcome "by showing that the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." Office Action at 8-9.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 4-5, 17, 18, 26-30, 32-37, 39-42 and 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants state that at the time the claimed invention was invented, both the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,884 and the invention claimed in claims 4-5, 17, 18, 26-30, 32-37, 39-42 and 48-50 of this Application were owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Next Level Communications, Inc. Since this Application was filed on March 15, 2000, Applicants respectfully submit that this statement overcomes the Examiner's rejection and that claims 4-5, 17, 18, 26-30, 32-37, 39-42 and 48-50 are patentable. *See also* MPEP §706.02(1)(2) (stating that such a statement alone is sufficient to disqualify the reference).

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If the undersigned attorney can be of any assistance in advancing prosecution, please call him at (202) 662-6000.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and

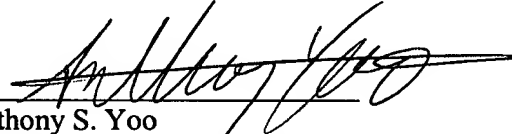
Docket No.: 025684.115-US  
(PATENT)

any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740, under Docket No. 025684.115-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: June 28, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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Version Marked to Show Changes

4. (Amended) [The method of claim 3,] In a residential environment having a plurality of televisions locatable in at least two separate locations, a method of distributing video signals from a residential gateway, the method comprising:

receiving at least one channel select command from one of a plurality of remote control devices associated with a respective one of the plurality of televisions, wherein at least a first one of the plurality of remote control devices is a wireless remote control device that transmits the channel select command as a wireless signal;

receiving the wireless signal from the first one of the plurality of remote control devices at a remote antennae package connected to the first one of the plurality of televisions;

transmitting the wireless signal from the remote antennae package over media;

receiving the wireless signal from the media at a remote antennae module located in close proximity to the residential gateway;

demodulating the wireless signal and extracting the portion corresponding to the channel select command;

transmitting the channel select command to the residential gateway;

receiving a video signal from a telecommunications network in response to the at least one channel select command;

constructing, from the video signal, at least one series of video packets corresponding to the at least one channel select command;

transporting the at least one series of video packets over a video packet bus to a plurality of video decoders; and

decoding the at least one series of video packets to produce at least one television signal, the decoding performed by at least one of the plurality of video decoders,

wherein said receiving the wireless signal includes receiving an approximately 433 MHz wireless signal from the first one of the plurality of remote control devices at a remote antennae package connected to the first one of the plurality of televisions.

17. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 13,] A residential gateway for distributing video signals to a plurality of televisions locatable within at least two separate locations in a residential environment, said residential gateway comprising:

a plurality of remote control devices associated with a respective one of the plurality of televisions for transmitting channel select commands, wherein at least a first one of the plurality of remote control devices is a wireless remote control device that transmits the channel select command as a wireless signal;

a remote antennae package connected to the first one of the plurality of televisions associated with the first one of the plurality of remote control devices, the remote antennae package receiving the wireless signal and transmitting the wireless signal over media;

a remote antennae module for receiving the wireless signal from the remote antennae package, demodulating the wireless signal, extracting the portion corresponding to the channel select command, and transmitting the channel select command to the residential gateway;

a network interface module for receiving signals including video signals from a telecommunications network, wherein the received video signals correspond to the channel select commands;

means for constructing at least one series of video packets from the received video signals;

a plurality of video processors for decoding the at least one series of video packets to produce at least one television signal; and

a video packet bus for transporting the at least one series of video packets to said plurality of video processors,

wherein the wireless signal has a frequency of approximately 433 MHz.

18. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 13,] A residential gateway for distributing video signals to a plurality of televisions locatable within at least two separate locations in a residential environment, said residential gateway comprising:

a plurality of remote control devices associated with a respective one of the plurality of televisions for transmitting channel select commands, wherein at least a first one of the plurality of remote control devices is a wireless remote control device that transmits the channel select command as a wireless signal;

a remote antennae package connected to the first one of the plurality of televisions associated with the first one of the plurality of remote control devices, the remote antennae package receiving the wireless signal and transmitting the wireless signal over media;

a remote antennae module for receiving the wireless signal from the remote antennae package, demodulating the wireless signal, extracting the portion corresponding to the channel select command, and transmitting the channel select command to the residential gateway;

a network interface module for receiving signals including video signals from a telecommunications network, wherein the received video signals correspond to the channel select commands;

means for constructing at least one series of video packets from the received video signals;

a plurality of video processors for decoding the at least one series of video packets to produce at least one television signal; and

a video packet bus for transporting the at least one series of video packets to said plurality of video processors,

wherein the channel select command is extracted from the wireless signal as an approximately 1 KHz signal.

26. (Amended) [The method of claim 24,] A method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the method comprising:

connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to each of the plurality of devices so that all communications between the devices and the telecommunications network must pass through the residential gateway, wherein a first one of the multiple televisions can be directly coupled to and located in close proximity to the residential gateway;

selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command, wherein each of the multiple televisions have an associated remote control device, the remote control device associated with the first television transmits the channel select command to a receiver within the residential gateway;

transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications network;

receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network corresponding to the at least one channel select command;

converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal,  
the decoding performed by at least one of a plurality of video decoders; and  
transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television,  
wherein said connecting the residential gateway includes connecting the  
residential gateway to the first television with an S-video cable.

27. (Amended) [The method of claim 24,] A method for receiving and  
decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting  
decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple  
televisions, the method comprising:

connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to each  
of the plurality of devices so that all communications between the devices and the  
telecommunications network must pass through the residential gateway, wherein a first one of  
the multiple televisions can be directly coupled to and located in close proximity to the  
residential gateway;

selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions  
by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command,  
wherein each of the multiple televisions have an associated remote control device, the remote  
control device associated with the first television transmits the channel select command to a  
receiver within the residential gateway;

transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications  
network;

receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network corresponding to  
the at least one channel select command;

converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;



decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal,  
the decoding performed by at least one of a plurality of video decoders; and  
transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television,  
wherein said transmitting the at least one television signal includes transmitting  
the television signal associated with the first television to the first television as an S-video signal.

28. (Amended) [The method of claim 24,] A method for receiving and  
decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting  
decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple  
televisions, the method comprising:  
connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to each  
of the plurality of devices so that all communications between the devices and the  
telecommunications network must pass through the residential gateway, wherein a first one of  
the multiple televisions can be directly coupled to and located in close proximity to the  
residential gateway;  
selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions  
by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command,  
wherein each of the multiple televisions have an associated remote control device, the remote  
control device associated with the first television transmits the channel select command to a  
receiver within the residential gateway;  
transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications  
network;  
receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network corresponding to  
the at least one channel select command;  
converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal,  
the decoding performed by at least one of a plurality of video decoders; and  
transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television,  
wherein said selecting a television channel includes selecting a television channel  
for at least one of the other televisions by programming at least one associated wireless remote  
control device, the at least one associated remote control device transmitting the channel select  
command as a wireless signal.

32. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 31,] A residential gateway  
for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting decoded  
signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway  
comprising:

a network interface module for receiving the signals, including video signals,  
from the telecommunications network;

means for converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;  
a plurality of video decoders for decoding the at least one series of video packets  
into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and  
transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television; and

a receiver for receiving channel select commands from a first remote control  
device associated with a first one of the multiple televisions that can be directly coupled to and in  
close proximity to the residential gateway,

wherein said receiver is an optical receiver and the first remote control device is  
an optical remote control device.

33. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 31,] A residential gateway for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for receiving the signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

means for converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

a plurality of video decoders for decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television; and

a receiver for receiving channel select commands from a first remote control device associated with a first one of the multiple televisions that can be directly coupled to and in close proximity to the residential gateway; and

[further comprising] a S-video connector for connecting the first television to the residential gateway.

34. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 31,] A residential gateway for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for receiving the signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

means for converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

a plurality of video decoders for decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television; and

a receiver for receiving channel select commands from a first remote control device associated with a first one of the multiple televisions that can be directly coupled to and in close proximity to the residential gateway,

wherein said video decoder associated with the first television decodes a series of video streams associated with the first television into S-video signals and transmits the S-video signals to the first television.

35. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 31,] A residential gateway for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for receiving the signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

means for converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

a plurality of video decoders for decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television;

a receiver for receiving channel select commands from a first remote control device associated with a first one of the multiple televisions that can be directly coupled to and in close proximity to the residential gateway; and

[further comprising] a remote control module for receiving and processing channel select commands.

36. (Amended) [The residential gateway of claim 31,] A residential gateway for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network and transmitting decoded signals to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the residential gateway comprising:

a network interface module for receiving the signals, including video signals, from the telecommunications network;

means for converting the video signal into at least one series of video packets;

a plurality of video decoders for decoding the at least one series of video packets into at least one television signal corresponding to at least one channel select command, and transmitting the at least one television signal to the corresponding television;

a receiver for receiving channel select commands from a first remote control device associated with a first one of the multiple televisions that can be directly coupled to and in close proximity to the residential gateway, and

[further comprising] a remote antennae package connected to a second television, wherein said remote antennae package receives a channel select command from an associated wireless remote control device as a wireless signal and transmits the wireless signal over media.

39. (Amended) [The method of claim 38,] A method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting the decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the method comprising:

connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to each of the plurality of devices that will communicate with the telecommunications network through the residential gateway;

selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command, wherein at least one of the remote control devices transmits the channel select command directly to a receiver within the residential gateway;

transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications network;

receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network corresponding to the at least one channel select command;

decoding the video signal into at least one television signal, the decoding performed by at least one of a plurality of video decoders; and

transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television,

wherein the at least one remote control device is an infrared remote control device and the receiver is an infrared receiver.

40. (Amended) [The method of claim 38,] A method for receiving and decoding signals from a telecommunications network at a residential gateway, and transmitting the decoded signals from the residential gateway to a plurality of devices including multiple televisions, the method comprising:

connecting the residential gateway to the telecommunications network and to each of the plurality of devices that will communicate with the telecommunications network through the residential gateway;

selecting a television channel to view for at least one of the multiple televisions  
by programming an associated remote control device to transmit a channel select command,  
wherein at least one of the remote control devices transmits the channel select command directly  
to a receiver within the residential gateway;

transmitting the at least one channel select command to the telecommunications  
network;

receiving a video signal from the telecommunications network corresponding to  
the at least one channel select command;

decoding the video signal into at least one television signal, the decoding  
performed by at least one of a plurality of video decoders; and

transmitting the at least one television signal to the appropriate television,

wherein the subset of televisions have a remote antennae package connected thereto and said selecting a television channel includes selecting a television channel for each of the remotely located televisions by programming the associated wireless remote control device to transmit a channel select command as a wireless signal to the remote antennae package, the remote antennae package transmitting the wireless signal containing the channel select command over media.